

To subscribe:  
click here

<



----- April 16, 2012 -----

## NEWS

### Expeditionary medical teams perform miracles

Story and photos by Petty Officer 3rd Class Monique LaRouche



FORWARDING OPERATING BASE EDINBURGH, Afghanistan – The Shock Trauma Platoon and Forward Resuscitative Surgical Systems from Bravo Company, 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) on Forwarding Operating Base Edinburgh, Afghanistan, are more than just in the fight, they save the lives of the combat wounded any time of the day. The STP is the smallest mobile medical support element of a medical battalion. They provide assistance to Regional Command Southwest including collecting, clearing and evacuating casualties. They provide resuscitative treatment care and temporary holding of casualties. The 38 member team works around the clock and

is equipped for medical evacuation emergencies. ([Read the STORY](#))

### Afghan soldiers train future mechanics

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Kenneth Jasik

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELARAM II, Afghanistan – The constant abuse on the rough terrain of Afghanistan can wear out vehicles quickly. So, Afghan National Army soldiers need constant maintenance and repairs to keep their vehicles running. Soldiers with 5th Kandak, 215th Corps, Afghan National Army, instructed a vehicle repair course to new ANA mechanics which started April 2. Experienced ANA mechanics teach the course's curriculum which is focused on their fleet of trucks, including modified Ford Rangers, humvees and large flatbed trucks. "I enjoy teaching the new soldiers," said Afghan Sgt. Hamid Dula, a course instructor with Maintenance Tolay, 5th Kandak. "We have been working on the trucks for awhile now, and we can fix nearly everything." ([Read the STORY](#))



## Poppy farming days are numbered in southern Helmand

Story and photos by Marine Sgt. Michael Cifuentes



KHAN NESHIN DISTRICT, Afghanistan – A patrol leader with the Afghan Uniformed Police here said his message against growing poppy is reaching farmers. In return, farmers are sealing their compliance with handshakes and understanding. Bismullah Khaliq, the patrol leader making rounds from village to village, is optimistic that Khan Neshin will be a safe district without poppy cultivation. He said “if we can just get the people’s attention in this matter, I’m certain we will get their cooperation.” First Lt. Jorge Colon, a team leader with the Police Advisor Team, Delta Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, said the government exercising its will on the people in order to deny

insurgents its cash crop shows that the rule of law is taking hold in places where there previously was little to no rule. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## ANA engineers construct bridge, help people of southern Helmand

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez

MARJAH DISTRICT, Afghanistan – As Marine forces in Helmand province shift into an advisory role and the capabilities and responsibilities of Afghan National Security Forces continue to grow, the people of southern Helmand are reaping the benefits. Afghan National Army engineers with 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, recently constructed a bridge vital to local travel and commerce to the village of Sera Qalah. A local elder, Haji Soorgul Aghan, approached the ANA at Forward Operating Base Fiddler’s Green, informing them of a road nearby that was being eroded by the water of a canal across which it was built. The ANA engineers, with their Marine advisors in tow, surveyed the site and jumped into action. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## From start to finish, Marine battalion leaves mark on Sangin

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Timothy Lenzo



FORWARD OPERATING BASE JACKSON, Afghanistan – Marines and sailors with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, came to Helmand province six months ago, cracking down on insurgents and extending a helping hand to locals. Whether wading through creeks while on patrol, setting check points in the dusty heat or drinking chai tea in a classroom of Afghan soldiers, they worked to train the Afghan forces and provide a safer place for their people. “Our mission when we came to Sangin in 2011 was to deepen the hold that 1st Battalion, 5th Marines had accomplished during their deployment,” said Lt. Col. Seth Folsom, commanding officer,

3rd Bn., 7th Marines. “We recognized up front that this was going to be the pivotal year, the pivotal point in time that we would be able to push the (Afghan National Security Forces) in the lead.” [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## Sailors save Afghan stab victim in mobile ER

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Kenneth Jasik

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELARAM II, Afghanistan – Sailors with shock trauma platoon, 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) Reinforced, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), provided life-saving care to an Afghan man who was stabbed in the abdomen by a thief, April 6. When coalition forces, Afghan National Security Forces or civilians get hurt in the local area the STP takes action. Within minutes of receiving a call they begin to treat the patients. “When we have stab wounds come in, the general surgeon who’s here has to make a call as far as how he’s going to manage (the patient),” said Lt. Cmdr. Michael A. Burt, officer in charge, STP, 1st Maint. Bn. (-) Rein. The STP is designed to be a stand-alone mobile emergency room. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## Corpsmen teach over chai, connect with Afghan students

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Timothy Lenzo



FORWARD OPERATING BASE JACKSON, Afghanistan – A medic places the last bandage on an Afghan soldier. He shouts commands to the soldiers next to him, and they respond, gripping the four corners of the stretcher. Together they carry their injured brother to cover behind a truck. The Afghan National Army soldiers do well on this exercise - their final exam and the one thing standing in their way from being certified as medics. They trained for eight weeks, and now with the arrival of ANA Brig. Gen. Abdul Wasea, commanding officer, 2nd brigade, 215th Corps, all they need to do is pass this exam. All five ANA soldiers who attended the Afghan National Security Forces medic course impressed their

instructors and passed their final exam with flying colors, March 29. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## Marine Air-Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2 relinquishes authority in Afghanistan

Story and photos by Marine Sgt. Michele Watson

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – After a successful deployment providing logistical support to Regional Command Southwest, Marine Air-Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), relinquished their responsibilities to 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) Reinforced, 1st MLG (Fwd) during a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, April 3. The transfer of authority ceremony is a Marine Corps tradition that formally symbolizes the continuity of command authority. The ritual is conducted by an assemblage of both incoming and outgoing units. The ceremony represents the passing of total responsibility, authority and accountability from one commanding officer to another. As MSB 11.2, 1st MLG (Fwd) released authority, the Commanding General of 1st MLG (Fwd), Brig. Gen. John Broadmeadow, spoke of the impact the battalion made during their tour. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## Bravo Co. Marines take on new mission, demilitarize base

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Mark Stroud



PATROL BASE MIRMANDAB, Afghanistan—Marines with 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), assisted in demilitarizing Patrol Base Mirmandab, March 23-31. The CLB-4 Marines retrograded supplies and equipment from the patrol base over the course of several trips in preparation for the base's closure. "This is the first [demilitarization] CLB-4 has been a part of," said 2nd Lt. Mathew E. Danielson, Platoon Commander, 2nd Plt., Bravo Company, CLB-4. "The rest of the [combat logistics patrols] have been direct support operations, bringing supplies out to the [forward operating

bases] and [combat outposts]." [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## "Red Patchers" support aerial travel in Helmand Province

Story and photos by Marine Sgt. Michele Watson

NOW ZAD, Afghanistan— In the Battle of Guadalcanal during World War II, infantry Marines and the shore party got mixed up after the initial landings on the beach. As gear and supplies were offloaded to support the assault, the shore party was unable to effectively direct the distribution of the cargo because they could not be distinguished in the swarm of other Marines on the beach. To mitigate the confusion, the shore party began wearing a red patch on their trousers and covers to identify themselves. Although the core concept of their job remains the same, today's shore party Marines are known as landing support [LS] specialists, and the red patch insignia is still proudly worn. While there are no beaches to assault in Afghanistan, LS Marines stay busy conducting several other missions associated with "Red Patchers." Chief among those tasks include organizing the travel of passengers and cargo throughout Helmand Province. "I love the term "Red Patchers," said Lance Cpl. Brent Wars, a landing support specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). "It is the one thing that separates us from all other Marines. It's kind of a pride thing." [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## 12 Mechanized Brigade takes command of Task Force Helmand

U.K. Defence News



In a short ceremony yesterday, 10 April 2012, at the Headquarters of Task Force Helmand (TFH) in Lashkar Gah, Brigadier Patrick Sanders, Commander of 20th Armoured Brigade, formally handed over to Brigadier Doug Chalmers, Commander of 12 Mechanized Brigade. Over the next six months, 12 Mechanized Brigade will look to build upon the achievements made by 20th Armoured Brigade since they arrived in Helmand in October 2011. Brigadier Sanders reflected on the progress made over the past six months: "The progress that has been made in central Helmand in the last six months has exceeded all of my expectations." This has been made possible because of the remarkable legacy we inherited from 3 Commando Brigade and 16 Air Assault Brigade before them, and because of the courage,

dedication, resilience and offensive spirit of the men and women of the Task Force; it has been an extraordinary privilege to have served alongside them. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## ANA soldiers learn IED-defeating techniques

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Kenneth Jasik

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELARAM II, Afghanistan – When Afghan National Army soldiers go on patrol, staying safe and combat effective means that they need to be aware of improvised explosive devices and what to look for. ANA soldiers graduated a course designed to help them identify and minimize the damage caused by IEDs, April 12. The course covered types of IEDs and ways to prevent them from injuring soldiers and civilians. “I learned to find IEDs and how to take care of them,” said Sgt. Abdul Khaleq, a squad leader with Route Clearance Toly, 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps. “We learned about all kinds of IEDs from mass-produced to homemade. We were also shown all different kinds of pressure plates and switches, so we know what to look for.” Pressure plates are devices that cause IEDs to explode when stepped on or rolled over by a vehicle. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## IN PICTURES: Military dogs at work in Helmand

U.K. Defence News



Two Army dog handlers have been providing security for British forces in Helmand for the past month by searching vehicles entering ISAF bases for weapons and explosives. Lance Corporal Sophie Mitchell, aged 27, and Private Kathleen Griffiths, 21, are working with search dogs Flake and Trough, and protection dog Vinco at Main Operating Base Price. Their job involves them providing vital protection to the UK, International Security assistance Force (ISAF) and Afghan troops who operate in the Nahr-e Saraj area of Helmand province. While Pte Griffiths keeps watch over the

area with protection dog Vinco, a five-year-old German Shepherd, LCpl Mitchell handles search dogs Fluke and Trough - both three-year-old spaniels, as they search trucks and cars looking to gain access to the base. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## HEROES

### Marines salute fallen brother in Khan Neshin district

Story and photos by Marine Sgt. Michael Cifuentes

COMBAT OUTPOST CASTLE, Afghanistan – “It’s going to be a little quiet and boring the rest of the deployment now ... without his jokes and all the other stuff he gets us into.” Cpl. Anthony Gamino, a rifleman and light armored vehicle scout with Delta Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, said this after a memorial service held here, April 8, for a fallen fellow Marine, Cpl. Roberto Cazarez. Marines and sailors serving with 1st LAR in Helmand province’s Khan Neshin district paid homage to Cazarez, a light armored vehicle driver with the company’s Alpha Section, White Platoon, who was killed in action during combat operations March 30. Like most Marines, Cazarez was quite the character in his unit. His fellow Marines said his spirit in the unit is irreplaceable. Cazarez was born in Angostura, Mexico. After he graduated from high school in Los Angeles, he enlisted in the Marine Corps to serve a country that he wasn’t a citizen of yet. His first job in the Marine Corps was as a small arms repair technician, commonly known as an armorer to Marines. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## Corpsmen distinguish themselves during mass-casualty event

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Mark Stroud



CAMP DELARAM II, Afghanistan—‘Sleep-in Sunday’ is the affectionately given nickname to the one day of rest afforded to the Marines and sailors of Regimental Combat Team 6 each week. Some Marines and sailors are given the opportunity to sleep in or take care of personal errands such as laundry and haircuts during the few hours of down time. The morning of March 25 started off like every other Sunday for the hospital corpsmen of Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) on Camp Delaram II, but was quickly transformed when a traffic accident turned into a mass-casualty event. “[Corpsmen] are never off-duty,” said Chief Petty Officer Charles R. Schaefer, medical chief, CLB-4. “We all have to be ready at any time.” [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## Commentary

### Final ride home

Story and photos by Army Spc. Chelsea Russell

Two columns composed of servicemembers and civilians working for the government face forward, awaiting the signal to begin marching toward the flight line where a fallen hero awaits his final ride home. A deep voice barks out the command “Forward March” and we begin the solemn trek to where we shall pay our final respects to one who has given the ultimate sacrifice for his country. The file of individuals paying their respects breaks off into two formations, forming a pathway to the C-130 where our fallen comrade will be taken home to his family. I’m in the fourth row, but I can see everything. The faces of those around me are set in stone, yet their eyes betray their sorrow. Beads of sweat gather on my forehead and slowly roll down my face, but I don’t move a muscle. The call to bow our heads is given and I look down at my feet, listening as a strong female voice reminds all of us that although we may not understand why tragic events like this occur it’s our duty to remain strong. At the conclusion of the prayer, we are commanded to “Order Arms.” I slowly raise my arm to salute the many sacrifices of one of our own and watch as those around me mirror the same motion. Although those gathered here may come from different branches, at this moment in time we are one. I turn 45 degrees as the coffin, lovingly draped with an American flag, passes by me on its way to boarding the airplane. The arid wind buffets angrily against those standing before the airplane and I know I’m not the only one bereaved by the loss of a fellow service member. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## VIGNETTES

### Pride paramount to River Ridge native

Story and photos by Army Spc. Chelsea Russell

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan - The sound of the National Anthem fills the air and young Cpl. Marc Orgeron holds a microphone in his hand. He stands rigidly at attention, the gleam of hard-earned medals glinting from his chest as he begins to sing. His voice booms across the bright green ball field and fills the hearts of those gathered to witness the San Diego Padres versus Colorado Rockies baseball game, Sept. 17, 2009, with pride. Now a sergeant, Orgeron, an intelligence surveillance reconnaissance collection manager with Regional Command Southwest currently deployed to Afghanistan, comes from a culture rich with a history of music, food and pride. He grew up in River Ridge, La., a suburb of New Orleans. “I tried out for American Idol when I was sixteen,” said Orgeron. “I was pretty heavily involved in the community as far as singing whenever I was younger.” Orgeron has always had an interest in music. He got his first drum set when he was 5 years old and has been playing ever since. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## Doc with “million dollar wound” still helping Marines on second deployment

Story and photos by Marine Sgt. James Mercure



FORWARD OPERATING BASE WHITEHOUSE, Afghanistan – Petty Officer Third Class Chase Speed still has the blood-soaked belt he was wearing when an insurgent put a bullet through it last year. Speed was serving as a corpsman with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, the day his platoon was inserted by helicopter into Jahazi, a small town that was a hotbed for insurgent activity. “I saw guys watching us from the tree line and from a compound to our southeast. A fire-team element of military-age males went into the same compound so we knew our position was about to get attacked,” Speed said. “Sure enough, we started to take fire from the compound, and our staff sergeant yelled to take cover, and then we began to engage them. As we were bounding to a different compound, I got hit and kept running another 50 meters. I got on the ground facing the enemy and

kept firing to protect my guys.” Suffering from a deep laceration in his right hip, while consistently receiving automatic weapons fire from the insurgents, Speed heard his staff sergeant yell, “Corpsman up!” **(Read the STORY)**

## To Ramadi and back

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Johnny Merkley

TREK NAWA, Afghanistan — The men and women who have earned the title of Marine share a unique history and tradition only found in the Corps. In some cases, this history and tradition is shared by generations of Marines from the same family. Sergeant Justin K. Smith, a squad leader with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, and native of Greensboro, N.C., has a rich Marine Corps tradition within his own family that has provided him with extra motivation through some his toughest times as a Marine. “Having so many family members as former Marines, it was something I had to do,” said Smith. “There has never been a generation in my family without at least one Marine.” Smith enlisted in the Corps as an infantryman in 2005, following in the footsteps of both his grandfather Edward Gallagher, a Korean War veteran, and his uncle Donny Gallagher, a Vietnam War veteran. “Because the other members of my family were in the infantry, it was the most appealing occupation,” said Smith. “I knew the risk I was taking, but I still wanted to be infantry even though I knew I would go to war.” **(Read the STORY)**



## A Marine's love for the culinary arts

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan - As a young child, he would peer over the dinner table with a smile. Every inch decorated with steaming dishes of mouth-watering food. The smells permeated the room, teasing the noses and appetites of everyone in the house. These memories are what cultivated the love Gunnery Sgt. David M. Anderson has for food. "Growing up, watching my grandmother and father always cook, bringing the family together around holidays, just seeing that, I wanted to do it," he said. "It's like art, when you're cooking you just do whatever you feel. It brings joy to people." He decided to pursue this art form at an early age, opting to accept a partial scholarship to a culinary school. **(Read the STORY)**

## Forward deployed Marine sings national anthem for Cleveland Indians' home opener

Story and photos by Marine Sgt. John Jackson

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Joe DiMaggio once said, "You always get a special kick on opening day, no matter how many you go through. You look forward to it like a birthday party when you're a kid. You think something wonderful is going to happen." This week, Major League Baseball celebrated opening day at stadiums from San Diego to New York and everywhere in between. Some ballparks celebrated the start of the regular season by showing highlight reels from the previous season, giving away free programs featuring fans' favorite players, having a ceremonial first pitch and even welcoming hall of fame players back to the diamond. While each ball club had different festivities planned to start their season, the Cleveland Indians had a special treat for their fans. **(Read the STORY)**



## Chaplain exemplifies duty to God, country and Corps

Story and photos by Marine Sgt. Michele Watson



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – When Easter approaches, chaplains stay busy organizing sermons, worship services and activities for the religious holiday. However, for those forward deployed, church service is just one of many responsibilities for a chaplain attached to a Marine unit. The combat environment brings an array of stresses to those deployed, from feelings of uncertainty to issues back home. Marines and sailors with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) have someone they can turn to when they need help or just need an attentive ear. “I’m not sure they’re really looking for someone to tell them what to do, but maybe for someone who will listen and help them process what their priorities really are,” said Navy Lt. Mike Beasley, the chaplain for 9th ESB, 1st MLG (Fwd). Beasley, a Corinth, Miss., native, has his work cut out for him at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan; the unit has Marines and sailors spread out among 25 locations across Helmand province. “Most sites have only four to five Marines from our unit, so we try to get out there and visit them,” said Beasley. “Most of them are isolated [from their original unit] at their sites, alone and unafraid.” Beasley enlisted in the Navy in 1981 and after serving four years, left active duty and went to college. He began his first ministry in 1988 and received his master’s degree in 1991.

After hearing about the military shortage of chaplains four years ago, Beasley obtained his commission and became a Navy chaplain. [\(Read the STORY\)](#)

## Gunfighters celebrate 40 years

Story and photos by Marine Cpl. Lisa Tourtelot

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan - “‘Gunfighters rule’ is more than a motto, it’s a way of life,” said Lt. Col. Ian Clark, the commanding officer of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, at the squadron’s 40th anniversary and battle colors ceremony aboard Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, April 1, 2012. The HMLA-369 “Gunfighters” affixed the Navy Unit Commendation streamer with four Bronze Stars, the Meritorious Unit Commendation streamer with three Bronze Stars, the Afghanistan Campaign streamer with one Bronze Star and the Iraq Campaign streamer with four Bronze Stars to the squadron’s battle colors. “We were activated in combat, during the Vietnam War. Forty years later, on the birthday, we’re in Afghanistan,” said Clark, a Shelby, Ohio, native. [.\(Read the STORY\)](#)



## VIDEOS

### Easter Service at Camp Leatherneck

Video by Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Symonds



Members of NATO and U.S. Forces along with Civilians Celebrate Easter with service on Camp Leatherneck. Easter is the time of the year when Christians celebrate around the world the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. U.S. and NATO Forces celebrated with a non-denomination sunrise service, along with Catholic and Protestant service where held throughout the day to accommodate everyone who is stations on Camp Leatherneck [\(Watch the VIDEO\)](#)

## **RCT-6 uses eMarine Website to Keep Families Informed**

*Video by Cpl. Ed Galo*

During deployments, keeping in touch with loved ones can be difficult. Cpl. Ed Galo reports on one new way Marines and sailors in Regimental Combat Team 6 are keeping families informed while they are in Afghanistan. Produced by Marine Cpl. Ed Galo. Includes soundbites from 1st Lt. Tyler Miller, RCT-6 information management officer.. **(Watch the VIDEO)**



## **MORE NEWS**

**Small Arms Course sets up Afghan forces for success**

**Setting the Conditions: Motor Transport Marines prepare Garmsir for transition**

**Marine engineers improve road for local village**

**Supply Management Unit supports operational needs across Helmand Province**

## **MEDIA COVERAGE/Interviews**

**Dedication, holiday, bittersweet for Border family based on story by MCC Shively, Navy chiefs in Afghanistan celebrate 119 years of heritage, rededicate chiefs' mess**

**Face of Defense: Chaplain from Alvin helps Marines in Afghanistan from a story by LCpl. Garcia Chaplain finds solace in helping others**

**The Candy Man-Time Magazine Battleland Blog photo by Cpl. Reece Lodder Afghan National Police, 'America's Battalion' Marines Maintain security Garmsir**

**Frontline photo Military Times featured photo by Cpl. Reece Lodder from, "Don't Tread On Me: Afghan Forces, Marines disrupt insurgen activity ahead of fighting season"**

**Marine Corps Times "Parting Shots" – no link, photo from Russian orphan finds home, Brotherhood in Marine Corps**

**Lance Cpl. Jim Roche, talks to Wall Patch**

**Lance Cpl. Edward Cotton, from Bucks County, Pa., talks to a WTKF-FM N.C.**

**Staff Sgt. Frederick Mays, from Daytona Beach, Fla., talks to a WTKF-FM N.C**

**Lance Cpl. Matthew Martin form Austin Salutes KXAN-TV, Austin, TX**

**Petty Officer 3rd Class Mikeya Jones talks with Fox Sports Time React - National**

---